

HB 6645

I wish to register my support of the aid in dying act. As a senior citizen, I would be so relieved if I knew there was a light at the end of the tunnel. In other words, **while I probably wouldn't avail myself of the opportunity**, it would be so very reassuring to know that I had some say or control over my fate.

I know there are a lot of manufactured fears which will be presented, but it seems to me that there are safeguards to protect anyone not wishing to assert that final decision.

I would like to see legislation go even further so that I, as a fully competent person, could signify in writing that if I became demented or was felled some other debilitating condition, my health care agent would be able to see that I had easy access to medication. I went through this with my husband, who had dementia for several years. In his completely lucid moments, we discussed that each of us would rely on the other to make sure our life was not prolonged when our condition became intolerable. I could have given him sleeping pills and fastened the plastic bag over his head (and I confess that I thought long and hard about doing so), but then I could have been jailed as a result, had it become known. I know, and my doctor agreed, that it was touch and go as to who would die first -- my husband from dementia or me from the stress and strain of taking care of him. Fortunately, he had the good grace to predecease me. It was as if a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders, much as I missed the "him" that used to be after he was gone.

Please, please take note of my views. I hope and urge you to vote in favor of the bill when the time comes.

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